

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1388
ANSWERED ON:29.10.2008
CRITERIA FOR DISTRIBUTION OF HAJ QUOTA
Mishra Dr. Rajesh Kumar

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise details of the Haj quota for the year 2008;
- (b) the details of the criteria adopted for distributing quota to the public and the private tour operators;
- (c) whether a few operators have been allotted more seats than the quota; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) The total quota for India for Haj 2008 is 167,991 pilgrims. State-wise details of 123,211 pilgrims, who would be going to Saudi Arabia for Haj 2008 through the Haj Committee of India are given at Annexure-I. The visit of the remaining 44,780 pilgrims for Haj 2008 would be arranged by 297 Private Tour Operators as per distribution list attached at Annexure – II.

(b) The Haj Committee of India distributes the quota among various States/Union Territories (UT) on a pro-rata basis according to the Muslim population of each State/UT. Besides that, States having excess applications are allotted additional quota proportionately from the unutilized quota of other States. As regards the distribution of quota among the Private Tour Operators (PTOs), the quota for Haj 2008 has been allocated, in a transparent manner, to the repeat/old PTOs (i.e. PTOs who were given quota in Haj 2007) who fulfilled the prescribed rules, regulations and requirements for the welfare of Hajis and also had the recommendations of the Associations, if they belonged to one, at the same level as was given to them earlier.

(c & d) No PTO has been allotted more quota than its due as it is given earlier years. The quota for PTOs, allotted by the Royal Government of Saudi Arabia, is a limited resource in which distribution can only be done by taking into account the capabilities and past record of the applicants. The PTOs registered in the previous year having provided the services for Haj pilgrims in a satisfactory manner, the Government has no reason to reduce their quota for the ensuing year. The quota for Haj 2008 has been allocated among the repeat/old PTOs (i.e. PTOs who were given quota in Haj 2007) based on their past performance, at the same level as was given to them earlier.